Bogibeel Bridge Project

398. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS
be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allotted for construction of Bogibeel Bridge in the current financial year;

(b) the amount needed for completion of construction of the bridge and what is the time-frame; and

(c) whether a decision has been taken for conversion of Rangia-Murkongselek rail line into broad gauge and for connection of Moranhat with Dilorugar town by rail line, to facilitate full use of the Bogibeel Bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Rs. 40 crores.

(b) As per the survey report, cost of construction of this bridge has been assessed as about Rs. 1760 crore. The project is likely to be completed in a period of 6 years subject to availability of resources.

(c) It has been decided to process the proposal of conversion of Rangia-Murkongselek MG line to BG for necessary approvals, Moranhat-Dibrugarh link is a part of the sanctioned Bogibeel bridge project.

Distressed railway bridges

399. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased
to state:

(a) what is the average age of railway bridges in the country, the number of bridges classified as distressed at present and by when the Railways are going to replace them;

(b) whether the Bridge Rehabilitation Committee had recommended in 1989 for replacement of girders for all the bridges, having three metre spans with concrete slabs for stability and protection; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to implement the recommendations?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The replacement of railway bridges

is not decided merely on basis of age but on age-cum-physical condition basis and technical consideration. Therefore, concept of average age is not used in context of Railway Bridges. As on 1.4.2002, there are 526 numbers of distressed bridges which are targeted for rehabilitation by 2005-06.

(b) No, Sir. However, replacement of girders bridges upto 6.1 m spans with ballasted concrete slabs was recommended for consideration of better running quality and less maintenance required.

(c)The process of replacement, as per recommendation, is continous activity and 11,067 number of steel girders has been replaced by RCC/ PSC slabs since 1987. Implementation of recommendation is done on age-cum-condition basis and subject to availability of funds.

Rajdhani Express for Raipur

† 400. SHRI RAMDHAR KASHYAP: Will the the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to run Rajdhani Express for Raipur during any other day of the week also, instead of the present frequency of once a week;

(b) if so, the number of days in a week this train is proposed to be run; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rail services for NJP

401. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce new rail services betwejn.New Delhi and New Jalpai Guri, Kolkata and New Jalpai Guri and MTJmbai and New Jalpai Guri, in view of the rush and non-availibility of tickets to tourists from various parts of the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.